

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for waters located in Accomack County and Northampton County, Virginia.

Messongo Creek, located in Accomack County, was identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report. Sufficient exceedances of Virginia's water quality standards for Fecal Coliform bacteria assessed segment VAT-C10E-05 as not supporting the Recreation Use.

Hungars Creek, located in Northampton County, was identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report for not supporting the Shellfish Growing water and Recreation water Uses. Segment VAT-C14E-11 is impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standard for fecal coliform bacteria in shellfish growing waters. The impaired segment is located in VDH Growing Area 86: Closure 136A. Sufficient exceedances of Virginia's water quality standards for Fecal Coliform bacteria assessed segment VAT-C14E-01 as not supporting the Recreation Use.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia, require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

The first public meeting is used to provide information and solicit comments from citizens and local government on preparation of the draft reports of the fecal coliform TMDL studies. The meeting will be held on July 30, 2007 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Eastern Shore Agriculture Research and Extension Center, 33446 Research Dr, Painter, Virginia.

The public comment period will begin on July 30, 2007 and end on August 29, 2007. Questions or information requests should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments. Requests should be sent to Jennifer Howell, Department of Environmental Quality, 5636 Southern Blvd, Virginia Beach VA, 23262, telephone (757) 518-2111, Fax (757) 518-2003, or e-mail jshowell@deq.virginia.gov.